

Panchmahal and Amreli for providing custom hiring services, repair and maintenance services for agricultural equipments and technical services to the farmers of the areas.

(c) The Government of Gujarat have informed that some Farmers Agro Service Centres are functioning satisfactorily and others are making efforts to increase their business to a satisfactory level.

Use of toxic materials in food production

†1400. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides like D.D.T. Aldrin, Di-alderin and Aflatoxin, Lead and Poly Chloronated Biphenil are being freely used in producing food articles thereby affecting the human lives adversely in a developing country like India;

(b) whether Government are formulating any effective scheme to check the adverse effects of chemical pesticides; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for playing with the human lives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) DDT, Aldrin, Aflatoxin and Lead and Poly Chlorinated Biphenil are not approved for use in agriculture. The use of Di-eldrin is restricted for locust control in scheduled desert area of Rajasthan under the supervision of Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India. The manufacture of technical grade of Di-eldrin has been banned w.e.f. 17.7.2001 and import of this insecticides (technical and formulation) has been banned from the same date. The marketing and use of De-eldrin shall be banned completely from the date of expiry or the period of two years from the date of publication of the ban Order whichever is earlier.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the adverse effects of chemical pesticides.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) The Registration Committee (R.C.) constituted under the insecticides Act, 1968 prescribes dose and waiting period while approving the use of pesticides on various crops so as to ensure that pesticides residues do not exceed the tolerance limits prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;
- (ii) The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs implementing the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil on the level of pesticides residues in food commodities.
- (iii) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been adopted as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection in the overall crop production programme. IPM is an eco-friendly approach which encompasses cultural, mechanical, biological and need based chemical control measures. In this approach, greater emphasis is laid on the use of bio-pesticides, pheromones, biological control agents and the pesticides of plant origin. There is significant reduction in the consumption of pesticides from 61,357 MT(technical grade) during 1994-95 to 46,195 MT (technical grade) during 1999-2000.

Diversification of Crop Support Price and Procurement

1401. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief-Ministers' Conference called in May this year took note of the fact that the system of support price and procurement had been confined to two crops only i.e. wheat and rice, and coarse-grain, pulses and edible oils had been neglected;

(b) if so, what strategy was evolved to diversify the support price and procurement mechanism to other crops; and

(c) the steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) At Chief Ministers' Conference held on 21st May, 2001 some of the